



Analytical writing

Duration: Eight hour-long sessions, schedule to be determined
Location: Tutor's Zoom link & Google docs

Course Description: The analytical writing introduces the students to ways to analyze well-written (and age-appropriate) personal essays and to write reflective responses to them. Students will compose, and deeply revise, a series of essays that comprise a unified memoir of which they are profoundly proud. The course is designed to build students' skill, joy, and confidence in writing.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, students will:

- Work with various texts and writing assignments that advance and complicate their analytical thinking and self-knowledge
 - Learn what constitutes rhetorical analysis (stance, purpose, audience, ethos, pathos, logos)
 - Learn about the process of invention, writing, and revision in a positive environment
 - Acquire knowledge of correct grammar, style, and syntax
 - Learn to work meaningfully in a small group setting
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Calendar: This calendar, like life, is subject to change, and may be modified by individual tutors to fit the needs of the particular class

Week 1: What is Analysis?

- Students will learn about the categories to consider when analyzing a nonfiction text.
- Students will read and analyze an opening excerpt from a published autobiography.
- Students will begin to compose an autobiographical text of their own, incorporating the complex sentence structure from the in-class reading.

Week 2: This I Believe

- Students will read and engage with a quote to stimulate creative and analytical thinking.
- Students will read and discuss a published personal essay, using rhetorical analysis and an emotional awareness to unpack it.
- Students will listen to excerpts of audio essays to use as models for their own self-analysis.
- Students will write in response to an exercise that prompts them to examine their beliefs.

Week 3: Inner Conflict

- Students will read aloud and discuss a personal essay that involves an inner conflict.
- Students will examine the language and structural decisions the author makes.
- Students will conduct a rhetorical analysis of this essay.



- Students will begin their writing assignment that focuses on an inner conflict they have faced themselves.

Week 4: Self-Analysis

- Students will read and engage with a quote to stimulate creative and analytical thinking.
- Students will read aloud and discuss a personal essay, using active and close-reading skills to unpack its meanings paragraph by paragraph.
- Students will continue to build their memoir by completing another writing exercise in which they examine their own life experience as it relates to the themes of the assigned reading.

Week 5: Cultural and Personal Identity

- Students will read and engage with a quote to stimulate creative and analytical thinking.
- Students will read aloud and discuss a personal essay on identity, using active and close-reading skills to unpack its meanings paragraph by paragraph.
- Students will examine the author's use of figurative language (metaphors and similes) to achieve significance.
- Students will continue to build their memoirs by beginning a writing assignment that prompts them to reflect on their own identity.

Week 6: Identity cont.

- Students will read and engage with a quote to stimulate creative and analytical thinking.
- Students will read aloud and discuss a personal essay that gives access to other cultural identities, using active and close-reading skills to unpack its meanings.
- Students will answer challenging self-analytical prompts about their belief and value system.

Week 7: Analyzing History

- Students will read and engage with a quote to stimulate creative and analytical thinking, leading them to write analytically about their "personal histories."
- Students will analyze a commercial to determine its stance, purpose, audience, and rhetorical appeals.
- Students will begin an in-class writing exercise in which they rhetorically analyze a commercial of their own creation.

Week 8: Analyzing Pain

- Students will read and engage with a quote to stimulate creative and analytical thinking.
- Students will read poems that convert suffering into art, showing how analysis can heal.
- Students will begin an in-class writing exercise, prompting them to be "wounded into speech," as defines a writer.
- Students will reflect on the class and the analytical work they've produced.